



NEWSLETTER

TOWN ELECTION **OCTOBER 3rd, 2011**



WHY VOTE?

With Town elections coming up on **October 3, 2011** it is time to ask the Question "Why Vote.?" Here a few reasons.

You Can Choose Your Government

This is one of the greatest advantages of voting. Never underestimate your single vote. It can be a deciding vote, so make it a point that you vote your favorite and most deserving candidate.

Voting allows you to choose people you want to represent you and govern you. The winning individual(s) will govern our Town, create policies and decide important things such as the services that are rendered to you, the tax rate, and essential quality of life issues.

Investing in the Future

The sole purpose of government is drafting and implementing various policies for the betterment of its people. Everything from tax rates to inflation rates are decided by the policy makers that you vote for and help put in office. They virtually decide everything about your community it's part in your quality of life, so why not vote a better person who can take wiser decisions and make your community a better place to live.

Voting is a Hard Earned Privilege

To get the right to vote, some people have worked tirelessly and many generations have shed blood for this cause. As they say, nothing comes for free and it stands true even for the right to vote. Still today, there are many countries where voting by all citizens is not allowed.

Please share this information with your friends and family members so they understand the importance of voting.

Voting is one of the ways you can voice your opinion in Town elections and gives you a chance to choose your leaders and make them accountable for the community's progress.

Mark Twain that says, "*The government is merely a servant - merely a temporary servant; it cannot be its prerogative to determine what is right and what is wrong, and decide who is a patriot and who isn't. Its function is to obey orders, not originate them.*"

Inside this Issue

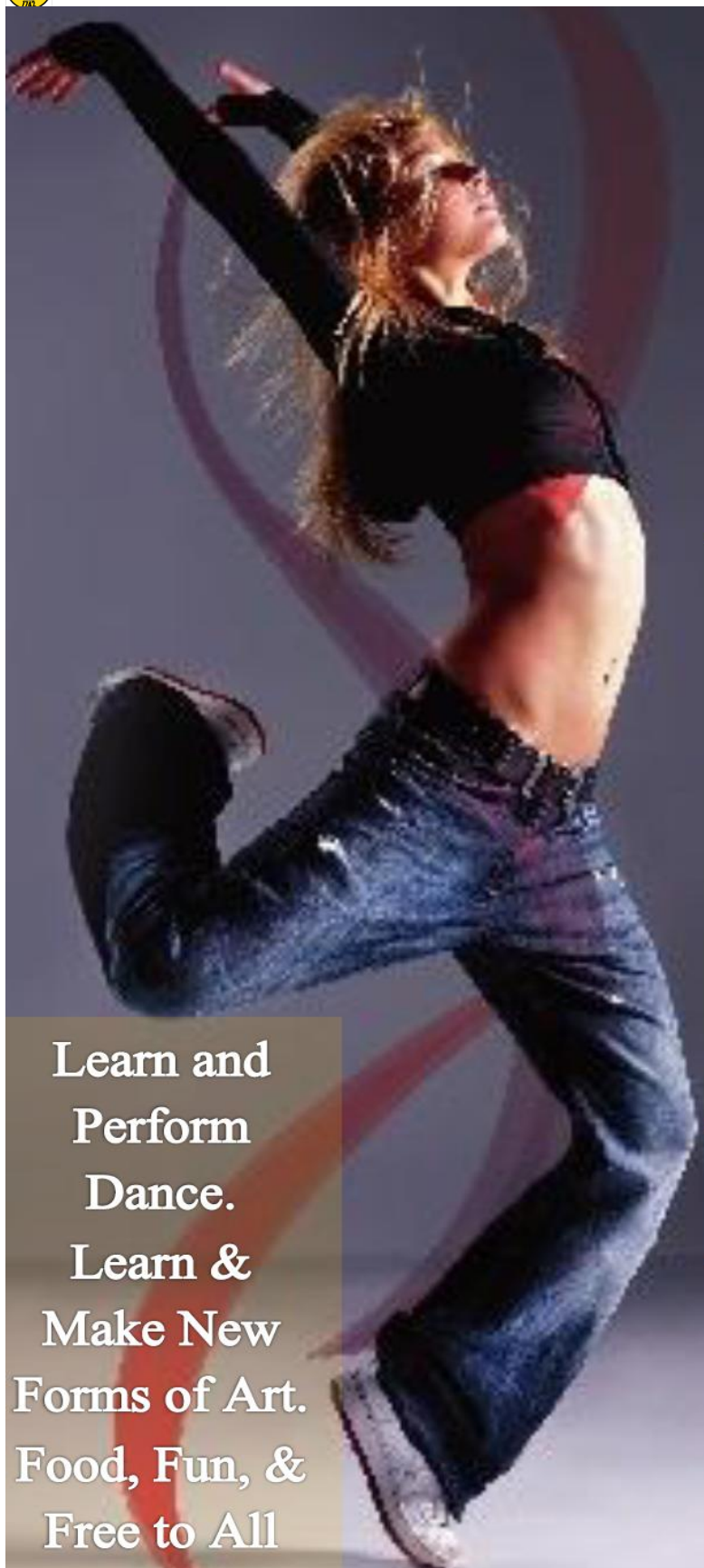
- A Word From the Candidates....
- Back 2 School
- Did You Know?
- Bus Safety
- Green Surface Grant
- Quick Bits
- Around Town



Contact Us

301-927-7048
(fax) 301-927-5257
4229 Edmonston Rd.
Bladensburg, MD 20710
www.Bladensburg.com

(Complete information list on back)



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M-NCPPC, & Community Forklift

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SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2011
1:00 P.M.
TO
5:00 PM
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COMMUNITY CENTER
4500 57TH AVE,
BLADENSBURG, MD 20710

For more information please
call (301) 927-7048



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A Word from the Candidates.....

Each candidate for Town Office was given an opportunity to submit a brief article for this newsletter in the effort to ensure that YOU, the voter, would be informed about the issues, stances of platform that the candidate is supporting.

Running for office in this election are:

1. **Office of Mayor** (*Unopposed*):
Walter L. James, Jr. (*Incumbent*)
2. **Ward I**
Trina Brown
Charlina Watson (*Incumbent*)
3. **Ward II**
Walter George (*Incumbent*)
Curtis Robinson



Town Election Absentee Ballots



If you are unable to vote at Town Hall on October 3, 2011, you can apply for an absentee ballot. You must apply no later than seven (7) days prior to the election. For an absentee ballot application please call Pat McAuley, Town Clerk, or Diane Griffin, Town Receptionist, at Town Offices, 301-927-7048.

The Office of Mayor


My name is **Walter Lee James, Jr.** It has been truly an honor for me to serve as Mayor of the great Town of Bladensburg. Our success has not come because



of one superior thought or idea, but rather because of our community's understanding of collective responsibility; for that I want to say thank you. Thank you for getting in the trenches with me as we stay on course to make Bladensburg the place to live, work and play.

As we take this journey, let's work together to improve the safety and cleanliness of our town. We must build an environment where our children are safe, and where our neighborhoods have sufficient lighting, and where we take a holistic approach to health and wellness. It is also imperative that we cultivate the relationships with our community partners, so that we can create job opportunities and stimulate our economy. Let's strive to bridge the gap between our seasoned citizens and our youth, and continue to work with our schools, realizing that education is critical to the sustainability of our community. If we continue to work together, the possibilities for Bladensburg are without limit.

Therefore, it is with a heart of love and a spirit of humility that I ask for your vote, so that I can continue to serve as Mayor of the GREAT Town of Bladensburg; as we answer the call to continue the good work that we've begun.


Walter L. James, Jr., Mayor



A Word from the Candidates.....

Ward I



My name is **Trina Brown**, resident/owner in the Town of Bladensburg for the past twenty-four years, and candidate for Ward 1 Council Member. I also served as President of the Port Towns Community Development Corporation and member of the

Prince George's County Advisory Committee on Aging. Over the past six years, I have worked with the Town of Bladensburg and surrounding communities to help implement revitalization projects to enhance the economic vitality and health and wellness of our community.

It is my goal to assist the Town of Bladensburg with building capacity, bringing resources to educate our community on green jobs, promote Senior citizen and youth involvement, health and wellness, public safety and to spark small business growth. Also, I want to encourage our residents to attend Town Hall meeting discussions to help foster self-sustaining neighborhoods and embrace Bladensburg as **"TEAM COMMUNITY."** I am asking for your vote to become Bladensburg's newly elected Ward 1 Council Member. If chosen, I look forward to collaborating with the Mayor, Council, and Town Hall staff in serving the residents of historic Bladensburg as we continue to improve the quality of life by helping to build vibrant, safe, and fun communities in which to live and grow.

I BRING ...

- my ability to listen without prejudice
- my commitment to serve this community to the best of my ability
- my experience in business and community involvement
- my compassion and moral integrity to assist and help others

I PROMISE ...

- to be visible
- to listen
- to be accessible
- to communicate
- to follow-up

Ward II



My Names is **Walter George** and it's been my pleasure to serve as your Council Member of Ward II. I love this Town and the citizens who choose to make Bladensburg home.

The Bible states "for much is given much is required." I believe that my body of work speaks for me and I believe in safety, clean streets, and clean waterways. I also believe that government leaders should not misuse the power that's afforded to them. Over six years ago, I told you that I would be there to listen and to help, I have done so. Activities like Neighborhood Watch and Community Clean Up, food for families during Thanksgiving and Christmas are just some of what we have done.

Yes; I say "we" because it take all of us to develop and support this village. Some run from problems, I run to them. That's why you elected me. This Town is great but we can make it better. We can do more to improve the condition of the Town, more business to keep our tax base low, better streets with sidewalks for all. Many people are only seen when they want something, we have formed a lasting relationship of trust. So in closing I'm asking for your vote to continue this work for all of us.

Thank you for your love and support.

Walter G. George Councilmember Ward II

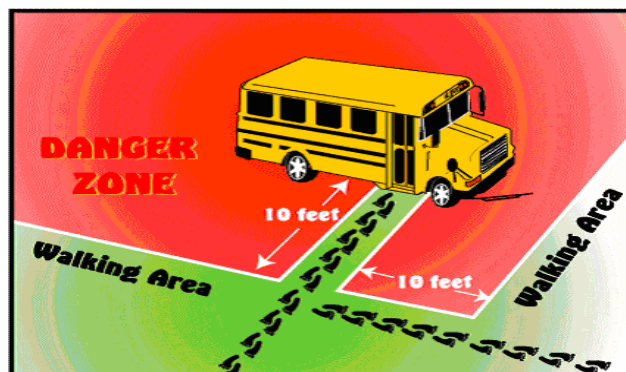
**Town Elections Monday October 3rd, 2011 at
Town Hall 4229 Edmonston Road
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**



With many young students heading back to school, it's time for parents to study up on some safety tips.

The greatest danger school children are likely to face during school hours is traffic, but bullying, strangers and theft are other issues to keep in mind.

- If your child will be walking to school or to a bus stop, study the route they'll be taking and if possible have them walk with a buddy.
- Show children safe places they could run to in an emergency, such as a neighbor's house, a busy store, or the police satellite office.
- Tell them not to use cell phones and headphones while walking, to avoid any distractions.
- If a child will be on a bike, remember that state law requires children under 16 to wear helmets.
- Remind children to avoid strangers, especially around playgrounds, public restrooms and empty buildings. Explain to children that if they spot a stranger loitering or if someone tries to follow them, they should run to a public place. Tell them that when possible, they should try to get a good look at the stranger's face, vehicle and license plate. This could help police find the person.
- Children should not display MP3 players, cell phones, or even small amounts of cash in public.



School Bus Safety

School bus transportation is safe. In fact, buses are safer than cars! Even so, last year, a few students were injured in incidents involving school buses. More often than not, these deaths and injuries didn't occur in a crash, but as the pupils were entering and exiting the bus.

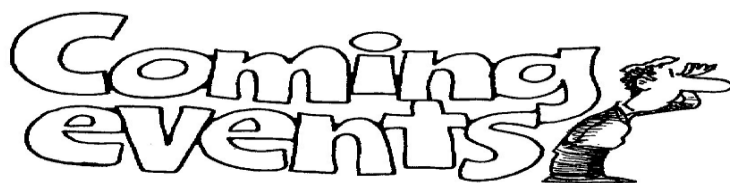
Remember these safety tips:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.
- 'Stay away from the bus until the driver gives a signal that it's okay to approach.
- 'Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, however, not all do. Protect yourself and watch out!

Be Safe... Watch Out!

***POINTS AND EVENTS OF INTEREST, EDUCATION, AND FUN!***

Date	Time	Event Name	Location
September 10 th	Noon – 7:00 pm	Central American/ Mexican Independence Day Celebration	Town Green
September 11 th	All Day	Solemn Remembrance of Community Members Lost in 9/11	Peace Gardens Bladensburg Waterfront
September 12 th	7:00	Town Meeting	Town Hall
September 16 th	7:00	Movie in the Park	Bladensburg Waterfront Park
September 17 th	Noon -7:00	Port Towns Day	Bladensburg Waterfront Park
September 24 th	1:00 -5:00 pm	Art in the Park	Bladensburg Community Center
October 3rd	7:00 am – 7:00 pm	Town Elections	Town Hall
October 10 th	7:00	Town Meeting	Town Hall
November 11 th	All Day	Veteran's Day <i>(Town Offices Closed)</i>	Town Hall
November 14 th	7:00	Town Meeting	Town Hall

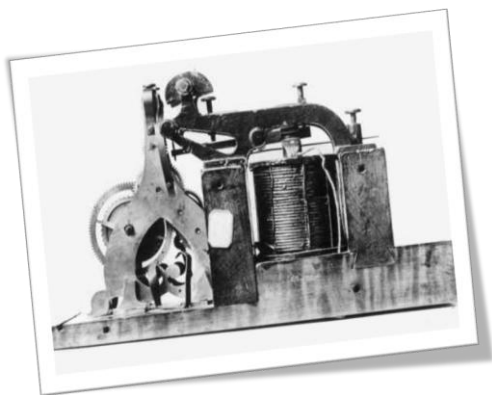




Quick Bits

Did You Know?

That the Town of Bladensburg is a member of the State of Maryland's Green Registry? The Green Registry is a collection of communities and businesses that promote sustainable practices. Then organizations share these practices in an effort to further reduce the impact upon the environment.



Samuel F.B. Morse reportedly received the first telegraph message in Bladensburg, in 1844, before his famous "What Hath God Wrought" message between Baltimore and Washington. His telegraph wire had been strung along the railroad right of way. Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell University, lived in Bladensburg and is said to have invented the telegraph pole.

Port Towns *Green Surfaces* Grant Project.

The Town of Bladensburg, as a member of the Port Towns has received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust that will assist us in identifying the pollutant load issues of greatest concern in our community and help us develop a community-wide impervious surfaces that includes priority sites for improvement. You can help us by telling us where you usually see "ponding" or pooling water. These areas would be among the first areas for us to resolve. **Please e-mail any information you have to John Moss**, Town Administrator, at jmoss@bladensburg.net or just drop a note off at Town hall.

Calendar

Worksessions

Second Monday of every month, 5:30 p.m.
(excluding holidays)

Council Meetings

Second Monday of every month, 7:00 p.m.

Seniors' Club

Town Hall, 10 a.m., 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month

Bulk Trash Pick-up

3rd Saturday of every month. Please call by noon the Friday before.

Neighborhood Watch

Every Friday, 7:00 p.m.
Call 301-927-8126 for info.

CERTS Meetings

Second Saturday of every month, 9:00 a.m.
Call 301-927-8126 for info. Please call by noon the Friday before

Port Towns Day 2011

A Community Determined



Bladensburg Waterfront Park

September 16 - 17, 2011

*** Friday Movie 7:00 PM ***

*** Saturday Festival 12:00 - 8 PM ***

*** Jazz Concert @ 5 PM ***



Learn more at battleofbladensburg1812.com



"Mortgage Late?
Don't Wait!"



Foreclosure Prevention assistance available, please contact Maryland Department of Community Housing & Development. www.mdhousing.org or www.MDHOPE.org 1 (877) 462-7555

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Cops on Roof Tops

Hanging out on a rooftop on a hot summer day is not necessarily a comfortable experience, but one area police officers said they thoroughly enjoyed while participating in the “Cops on Rooftops” fundraiser for Special Olympics Maryland. **Bladensburg Police Chief Charles Owens** (*joined by Bladensburg Mayor Walter L. James*) was one of about 30 police officers who endured the heat on a recent Saturday and Sunday on the roof of the Hyattsville Dunkin Donuts.

Contact Information

Mayor

Walter James301-452-7560

Council Members Ward I

Cris Mendoza240-604-6349

Charlina Watson301-437-7197

Council Members Ward II

Walter Ficklin301-792-8199

Walter George301-379-4774

Administrative Offices

301-927-7048

Code Enforcement

301-927-0330

Police Department

301-864-6080

Public Works

301-927-1452

VOTE...YOU count!